Spring 2026

Recycle Review

Missouri State Capitol Goes Green

2026 Zero Waste Challenge Hits New Highs

Despite a windy Friday on April 17, the Office of Administration's Surplus and Recycling Program successfully hosted its 16th annual Zero Waste Challenge. Held during the Department of Natural Resources' Earth Day celebration in Jefferson City, the event proved that sustainable choices yield big results.

By the Numbers: A Greener Performance

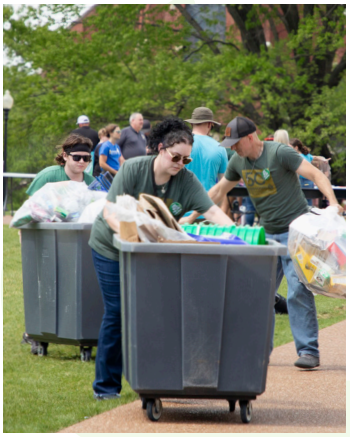
The team collected 357 lbs. of waste in a single afternoon. Thanks to meticulous sorting by staff and volunteers, we reached an incredible milestone:

- **79% Diversion Rate:** Nearly 80% of all event waste was recycled or composted.
- **20% Improvement:** This marks a significant jump in efficiency compared to last year's results.

Hands-On Sustainability

Led by Recycling Coordinator Cameron Gehlert, the team and a dedicated group of volunteers transformed the Capitol grounds into a living laboratory for conservation. Key highlights included:

- **Live Sorting:** Real-time weighing and documenting of recyclables, compostables, and trash.
- **Eco-Education:** Teaching students, parents, and teachers the long-term value of the "re-use" mindset.
- **Resource Advocacy:** Promoting electronics recycling and creative ways to give materials a second life.



A Legacy of Action

Earth Day began in 1970 as a movement of 20 million Americans. Today, Missouri continues that legacy. While the celebration in Jefferson City has wrapped up, the mission continues. Every small action—from reducing single-use plastics to proper composting—helps protect our state's natural beauty.

Thank you to our volunteers and partners for making our community a cleaner, greener place for everyone.

Watch the Highlights!

Check out our **video recap** to see the Surplus and Recycling team in action and catch the best moments from Earth Day 2026.

CAMERON GEHLERT
OA SURPLUS AND RECYCLING PROGRAM COORDINATOR
And the goal is really to just appreciate
our planet and the resources it offers us,

Make Earth Day Every Day!

- Carpool or take public transit to work.
- Pick up and recycle litter.
- Avoid single-use plastics and Styrofoam — Invest in real plates, cups, and utensils.
- Cook or buy only what you'll eat to minimize food waste.
- Set your printer to print two-sided or go digital and avoid printing altogether.
- Limit fragrance use to natural oils.
- Switch to eco-friendly, non-toxic cleaning products as you run out.

Recycling Champion Award Nominations

The Surplus and Recycling Program recognizes State agencies and team members for outstanding contributions in the areas of waste reduction and recycling. Do you know a State team member or team with a passion for recycling? **Submit a nomination today!**

Click the image above to learn more about last year's Recycling Champions.

We want to see your fun recycling photos! To have your photos featured in one of our future newsletters, please send them to **recycling@oa.mo.gov**.

MISSOURI OFFICE of ADMINISTRATION

Division of General Services
Surplus and Recycling